Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, EAIR, GR, TU, GW

SUBJECT: LIFTING AEGEAN OVERFLIGHT RESTRICTIONS

REF: A) ANKARA 499 B) BONN 01050

1. IT HAS BEEN CLEAR FOR SOME TIME THAT SOLUTION TO AEGEAN AIR SPACE CLOSURE PROBLEM CAN BE REACHED ONLY IF TURKS ARE PERSUADED TO LIFT NOTAM 714. WITH THIS IN MIND DIRECTOR FOR SOUTHERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS EAGLETON RAISED AEGEAN OVERFLIGHT ISSUE WITH TURKISH FOREIGN OFFICE DURING VISIT TO ANKARA JANUARY 17. (REFTEL A). ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT ABLE TO PERSUADE TURKS TO CHANGE CONFIDENTIAL

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THEIR POLICY, HE DID EMPHASIZE US CONCERN OVER SITUATION

WHICH CONTINUES AS IRRITANT TO GOG - GOT RELATIONS, WORKS HARDSHIPS ON US MILITARY FLIGHTS, AND ON ALLIED AIRLINES PROVIDING CHARTER SERVICE, AS WELL AS ON TURKISH WORKERS WHO RELY ON THESE SERVICES TO TRAVEL TO BERLIN.

2. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE EMBASSY SHOULD,IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSING MATTER IN JANUARY 23 BONN GROUP MEETING (REFTEL B), APPROACH FOREIGN OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE WHETHER FRG STILL SERIOUS

ABOUT TURKISH WORKER FLIGHT PROBLEM. IF FRG EXPRESSES SUCH INTEREST, EMBASSY SHOULD PURSUE WITH FRG POSSIBILITY OF IMMEDIATE FRG FOLLOW UP DEMARCHE TO TURKS. IN PRESENTING CASE TO FRG, EMBASSY REP SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT UNLESS FRG ACTS QUICKLY TURKS WILL MISTAKENLY GAIN IMPRESSION THAT NEITHER FRG OR ALLIES OVERLY CONCERNED WITH ISSUE AND WILL NOT ACT ON MATTER. AS A MINIMUM, WE BELIEVE FRG SHOULD EXPRESS ITS CONCERN TO THE TURKS IN THE SAME MANNER IT APPROACHED THE GREEKS.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD REPORT FRG REACTION IMMEDIATE. KISSINGER

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